G. R. S. IX-5]

Previous references.

Progress

1929-20

(Genl)

File No. 78-9

Serial Nos. 1–6

Later references.

Genl. 79-78

Genl 241-46-1, 2

(26)

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

Serial Nos. Six ans

Part B for September 1920.

SUBJECT.

Reports of accidents in connection with explosives

Ref To, The Chief Inspector of Mines No G 6291 Dt 15-9-20. Rates have been sent in favour of bringing Burma Mines under the Mines act

On 21/9

WD 2238—GPI—20,000—14-6-20

1755 0

G. R. S. III—1] 1919-20

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

(Geol)

NOTES.

File No. 78-17

FILE HEADING.

Reports of accidents in connection with explosives.

From

The chief Inspector of Mines in Mysore

No. 1072 Dated 9-4-20. Received 10-4-20.

Diary No. 1755 0.	Enclos.	Spare Copies.	Serial No. 1

BRIEF ABSTRACT OF LETTER.

Forwards a copy of letter from the Inspector of Explosives reporting ~~regarding~~ the occurrence of an accident by the use of gunpowder in Nalur village, of which resulted in the death of two persons and 15 persons injured thereby Magisterial Taluk, and stating that a detailed report will be furnished on receipt of full information from the District Magistrate of Kadur District

NOTES AND ORDERS.

Submitted. May the receipt of further report be awaited?

AHS 14-4-20. 15

2 For perusal.

1st Member

dcs 15/4/20.

3 Delay in reporting the accident requires investigation

4 Please put up draft to Dy Mysre., Kadur asking him to explain cause of delay. dcs 17/4/20.

382 15.4.20

NOTES—First Sheet.

G. R. S. III-2]

17550

General and Revenue Secretariat. Genl File No. 78 of 1919-20.

Serial No.	
5	Submitted with a draft AHS 17-4-20. Issue 19/4/20. From the Dy. Mgte Kadur C. 24073 of 21-4-20. calls for the explanation of the delay of 75 days in sending the report in question. Submitted with a reminder. 29/5/20. Issue 29/5/20 Issued C 26932 of 1-6-20.
3	From the same officer No 129 of 12-7-20. Forwards copies of his letters of 10-6-20 & 3-7-20 to the Inspector of Explosives detailing the circumstances of the accident. Submitted with references to paragraph 3 and 4 above. AHS 14-7-20. Whether the suggestion made by the Dy Mgte in paragraph 5 of his letter for avoiding delay in such cases in future may be adopted is a point for consideration. 1st Member) May be agreed to 15/7/20. 16/7 26/7

CHIEF SECRETARIAT
MINOR Depts
23 APR 1923
SubA

397
15/7
pr AHS

NOTE—Contn. sheet.

2582
750
17580

G. R. S. III-2]

General and Revenue Secretariat. Geol File No. 78 of 1919-20.

Serial No.	
	10 Submitted with a draft AHS 21-7-20. Issued 21/7/20. 4 To The Chief Inspector of Mines in Mysore The S P of Police in Mysore. The Dt Magistrates of Dts G 1931-40 dt 26-7-20 directs that in addition to the report to be sent by the Dt Magistrates as required by Govt Order dt 7-11-02, the local police officers who receive the first information of accidents should give intimation thereof in future to (1) the Dt Magistrate, (2) the Police Supdt & (3) the Inspector of Explosives
	5 From the Chief Inspector of Mines No 177 dt 10-8-20 Submits the report of the Inspector of Explosives on the accident referred to in Pls 1 & 3. Rubd 12 Mind attention is invited to the last three paragraphs of the report AHS 17-8-20 13 Please put up copies of the Arms Rules & Explosives Rules. 18/8/20 14 Copies of Arms Rules & Explosives Rules are put up. AHS 18-8-20. 15 The suggestion made by the Inspector of Explosives about providing for the possession of licenses under the Arms Rules by those who keep or handle buddukovis and the obtaining of permits from a Magistrate for the use of gunpowder on funeral and other occasions appears to be worthy of adoption

NOTE—Contn. sheet.

Serial No.

1) The matter will, if approved, be referred to the Legislative Section for further action

DCG 21/8/20.

Chief Secy.) I do not think it is desirable to bring "buddu Kovis" under the Arms Act & to insist on licences for them Accidents of this kind are rare & the sufferers are generally the people responsible for the occurrence by their negligence &c.

3rd member

CBK 3/8/20

1577 1.9.20

18 I agree with the Chief Secretary. I do not think that licensing the use of Buddu Kavis will in any way prevent or reduce such accidents

Hd 2/9

19 Vth member Dewan

58 3/9

CBK 3/9/20

20 Agreed

21 Draft accordingly

DCG 6/9/20

9 Submitted with a draft

AHS 7-9-20.

Issue DCG 8/9/20

NOTE—Contn. sheet.

F. R. S. III-21

General and Revenue Secretariat.

Geol File No. 78 of 1919-20

245 750 17550

5

Serial No.	
6	To The Chief Inspector of Mines & 629/1.D/18. 9. 20 States that forest are not in favour of giving Buddha Davis under the Arms Act

CHIEF SEC'T
IV
MINOR Depts.
23 SEP 1920

NOTE—Contn. sheet.

DIARY NO. 1753

Gol 78-19-1

Letter No.142/Enc.2, dated 8th April 1920, from the Inspector of Explosives in Mysore to the Officiating Chief Inspector of Mines in Mysore.

I have the honour to forward herewith for the information of Government a copy of the preliminary report from the District -- Magistrate of Kadur on the occurrence of an accident by use of gunpowder in Balur village of Mudigere Taluk on the 25th Ultimo under circumstances therein detailed together with a copy of my letter to the District Magistrate in response.

2. The report in question is much belated having been received by me fully a fortnight after the occurrence of the accident and I see no object now in visiting the place either to investigate the cause or to gather evidence. I have therefore suggested to the District Magistrate to institute Magisterial enquiries and furnish full details and requested him to inform me about the cause for such a long delay.

27431

3. As it is an accident of sufficient importance involving 15 persons, I immediately submit the report as received and will later on furnish a detailed report on receipt of full information.

---

ch Secy
10 APR 1920

No. 1[illegible]

Office of the Chief Inspector of Mines
in Mysore,
Oorgaum, dated 9th April 1920.

Copy of the above together with copies of enclosures, submitted to the Chief Secretary to the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore, for information.

L. N. Beckwith

AG. CHIEF INSPECTOR OF MINES
IN MYSORE.

INSPECTOR
Depts:
APR 1920
M.S.

Letter No.141 dated 8th April 1920 from the Inspector of Explosives in Mysore, to the District Magistrate. Kadur District.

-----: oOo :-----

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter Mis.No.129, dated 6th April 1920, furnishing some preliminary information on the - occurrence of an accident by the ignition of gunpowder while loading a gun on the occasion of the death of Manje Gowda of Balur village in the Mudigere Taluk on the 25th Ultimo, I have the honour to invite your kind reference to para 5 of Government Order Geol No.258-267 S, dated 7th November 1902 and request to be informed about the cause for the long delay to report the matter.

2. Had the report been received by me immediately after the occurrence of the accident, I might have inspected the scene of the accident and dealt with the case personally but under the present circumstances I would suggest that in accordance with Clause 8(1) of the Explosives Regulation II of 1888 a Magisterial enquiry may be arranged for and detailed report furnished with all records and inquest proceedings together with copies of enquiries regarding the accident at an early date.

---------: o :---------

C O P Y.

L. N. Beeks Esq.

AG. CHIEF INSPECTOR OF MINES IN MYSORE.

M.S.

Letter Mis. No.129, dated 6th April 1920, from the District Magistrate, Kadur District, to the Inspector of Explosives in Mysore.

I have the honour to state that the Inspector of Police of Mudigere has reported that one Buddu while loading a gun for firing to announce the death of Manje Gowda of Balur Village in the Mudigere Taluk on the 25th March 1920, the gun powder caught fire and exploded, thereby injuring some persons (about 15). It is further reported that 4 or 5 of those persons, who were seriously hurt have been directed to be taken to the Local Fund Dispensary at Mudigere for treatment.

2. From a perusal of the first information report of unnatural death since received, it is seen that out of the persons reported to have been seriously hurt, two, Barma, and Sanna died on the 26th March 1920. The inquest reports are awaited.

3. I have called for a further detailed report in the matter.

4. A copy of the report from the Police Inspector with the remarks of the Amildar of Mudigere thereon is herein enclosed for information.

"C O P Y"

L. N. Beckwith

AG. CHIEF INSPECTOR OF MINES

IN MYSORE.

M.S.

A86

Draft 9

GOVERNMENT OF HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF MYSORE

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT

No. G 24073 Jud 78 19-2 Bangalore, Dated 21/ec/1920.

From

C. S. BALASUNDARAM IYER, Esq., B. A.,
Chief Secretary to the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore.

To

K. Mylar Rao, Esq., B.A., B.L.,

District Magistrate, Kadur District.

Sir,

The Inspector of Explosives brings to notice that there was a delay of about 15 days on your part in sending a report regarding the occurrence of an accident by the ignition of gun powder while loading a gun in Balur Village of ~~the~~ Mudigere Taluk on 25th March 1920. I am directed to invite your attention in this connection to Government Order No. 258-267/S dated the 7th November 1902 directing that whenever an accident occurs in connection with explosives, the District Magistrate should cause a report thereof to be sent forthwith to the Chief Inspector of Explosives as well as a copy of any enquiry into the cause of the accident and to request you to be so good as to explain why there was a delay of 15 days in sending the report in question.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Dft acs

for Chief Secretary to Government.

ACH. 2.

mes No 129 Encl 19-20 Fwd

10750

DIARY NO.

Office of the District Magistrate,
Kadur District.

Chikmagalur, Dated 12th July 1920.

Geol 78. 19-3.

From

K. MYLAR RAO, Esq., B.A., B.L.,

DISTRICT MAGISTRATE,

KADUR DISTRICT.

Ch Sec'y
15 JUL 1920

CHIEF SECRETARIAT.
IV
MINOR Depts
13 JUL 1920

13

To

C.S. BALASUNDARAM IYER, Esq., B.A.,

CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF

HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF MYSORE,

BANGALORE.

SIR,

With reference to your letter No.G.24073/Geol. 78-19-2 dated the 21st April 1920 and subsequent reminder calling for explanation as to the delay in sending the reports of accident of gun powder at Balur, I have the honour to forward herewith copies of my letters Nos.129 of the 9/10th June and 3rd July 1920 to the Inspector of Explosives in Mysore detailing the circumstances of the accident.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Treasury Assistant Commissioner,
For District Magistrate,
MCR Kadur District.
(Absent from Head Quarters)

D.S.R.

From

The District Magistrate,

Kadur District.

To

The Chief Secretary to

the Government of His Highness

the Maharaja of Mysore,

BANGALORE.

Dated

Despatched

Received

General No.

No.

Enclosure No.

SUBJECT

No. Mis: 129
19-20

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE,
KADUR DISTRICT.

Dated Chikmagalur, 9th/10th June 1920

FROM

K. UYLAR RAO, Esq., B.A., B.L.,
District Magistrate,
Kadur District.

To

A.T. Setlur, Esq., I.C.S.,

~~Inspector of Explosives in Mysore,~~

Bangalore.

SIR,

With reference to your letter No.141 dated the 8th April 1920 requesting to be informed why there was delay in reporting the accident by the ignition of gun-powder on the occasion of the death of Manjegowda of Balur village in the Mudigere Taluk on the 24th March 1920, I have the honour to forward herewith in original the report of the District Superintendent of Police, Kadur District together with the connected papers on the subject. It would appear that Manje gowda, an influential Gowda of Balur, died on the 23rd March 1920 and the body was carried to the cremation ground the next day at noon. The firing of "Buddukovis" formed one of the items of funeral ceremony and a dozen people were engaged in firing them from 12 Noon to 3 P.M. Loose powder about ½ a maund is said to have been kept in a place and the whole quantity got ignited while one of the men was filling his tube with it. Eighteen persons are reported to have been hurt in all. Of these 11 men died between 26th March 1920 and 5th May 1920. The remaining seven men are reported to have recovered.

2. All the Taluk Police Officers from the Daffedar to the Amildar visited the place immediately after the occurrence and made enquiries. The Assistant Surgeon, Mudigere was also on the spot to render aid to the injured men. The occurrence

occurrence is reported to be purely accidental.

3. The Amildar Magistrate who was asked to institute Magisterial enquiry in the matter has not yet submitted his report and it will be sent when received.

4. As regards the alleged delay, it will be seen from the last para of the Police Superintendent's letter that the report after passing through the Subordinate Police Offices, reached this office on the 29th March 1920. I left Chikmagalur for Bangalore on the 28th evening at about 7 P.M. and was therefrom from the 29th to the 31st in connection with the meeting of the Heads of Departments and Deputy Commissioners, and returned to Head Quarters on the morning of the 1st April. The clerk who was in charge of the paper, seems to have lost sight of the standing orders requiring a report being made to the Chief Inspector of Explosives in the matter and to have treated the reference as a routine character.

5. To enable the Chief Inspector of Explosives to have the report immediately on the occurrence of such accidents, it seems to me desirable that the local Police Officer who -- receives the first information, should be required to give intimation of it direct to the following officers:-

(1) The District Magistrate.
(2) The Police Superintendent.
(3) The Chief Inspector of Explosives.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Sd.K.Mylar Rao.

DISTRICT MAGISTRATE,

Kadur District.

" C O P Y "

District Magistrate,
Kadur District.

Letter No.Mis.129 dated 3rd July 1920 from the District Magistrate, Kadur District, to the Inspector of Explosives in Mysore.

With reference to the correspondence ending with your letter No.173 dated the 18th June 1920 calling for further particulars and the records of the Magisterial enquiry held in connection with the Gun Powder accident at Balur, I have the honour to state that from the report received from the Amildar Magistrate, Mudigere, it is seen that eight persons have been examined to ascertain the cause of the accident. Of these, one is the brother of the deceased Manje gowda, two are the relatives of the victims, two are the injured persons and three eye-witnesses. All these have sworn to the fact that the ignition was purely accidental and no one has been able to state definitely as to how it occurred. All that can be made out from the statements of these persons is that gun-powder was being loaded into the small iron tubes(Buddukovis) near the place where it had been kept and it exploded when one of the tubes was being loaded, and that the explosion might have been due to a pebble in the gun-powder. There can be no doubt that the ignition was purely accidental but it cannot be clearly made out how it occurred.

2. As regards the quantity of gunpowder that had been collected, it is stated that the deceased was getting his supply from Chikmagalur, Mangalore and other places. Theonly man, his brother, who could give any information as to how much powder the deceased had and whether a license therefor had been taken says that he does not know anything about thematter. The deceased is said to have been distributing gun-powder free on funeral occasions of th the kind to the poor. He had a lieense to possess a Revolver and a gun. Of the large number that attended the funeral, some are also said to have brought a quantity of gun-powder.

3. As regards the distance between the place where the -- Budkovis were being loaded and the place where the gun-powder was stocked, it is said that "Budkovis" were being loaded near the place where the gun-powder was stocked, but the exact distance is not ascertained.

P.T.O.

4. What quantity of gun-powder there actually was cannot be stated. The statements disclose that there was a bag of powder and that the powder was being poured from it to the winnower and filled into the Budkovis. The Amildar Magistrate reports that the bag could have contained from 8 to 10 seers of coffee berries.

5. The report of the Amildar Magistrate together with the statements recorded by him is forwarded herewith in original for reference and return when done with.

&&&&&&&

" C O P Y "

District Magistrate,
Kadur District.

D.S.R.

12 copies

G.R.S. VI-71]

SUBJECT.....

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.....

ary No. of letter replied to.....

General and Revenue Secretaria

( )

the *191*

ate of issue.....

Signed by.....

May this be

i Printed ?

ii treated as a standing order ?

iii published in the Gazette, English Part ? PUBT

iv translated ?

v placed at the disposal of the press ?

vi published in the Gazette, Kannada Part ?

Section Genl.

File No. 78-19

Serial No. 4

Proceedings of the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore.

Read— Paragraph 5 of G.O. no. 258-267-S dated 7th November 1902 directing that whenever an accident occurs in connection with explosives, as specified in clause 7 of the Explosives Regulation II of 1888, the District Magistrate ~~will~~ should cause a report thereof to be sent forthwith to the Chief Inspector of Explosives ~~as soon as~~ together with a copy of an enquiry into the cause of the accident held under clause 8 (1) of the said Regulation.

2. Letter ~~Ltr~~ no 1072 dated 9th April 1920 from the Chief Inspector of Mines in Mysore forwarding a copy of ~~Order Thereon No.~~ letter dt 8th April 1920 from received from the Inspector of Explosives bringing to notice that there was a delay of about 15 days in sending a report to the ~~Lr~~ letter office regarding the occurrence of an accident by the ignition of gun powder while loading a gun in Baler village of Mudgere Taluk on 25th March 1920

3. Correspondence ending with letter no PUD II
129 dated 12th July 1920 from the District
Magistrate, Kadur District in the matter.

Order. G 1931-40

With a view to enable the Inspectors
of Explosives to have reports immediately
on the occurrence of ~~such~~ accidents in connection with explosives,
direct trial, in addition to the reports
caused to be sent by ~~the~~ District Magistrates
as required by the Govt orders read above
the local Police Officer who receives
the first information of the accident should at once give
direct ~~the~~ to the (1) District Magistrate
(2) ~~the~~ Police Superintendent and (3) the
Inspectors of Explosives

Forwarded 21/7/20
Chief Secretary.
21.7.20

To The Chief Inspectors of Mines in Mysore.
The Inspector General of Police in Mysore
The District Magistrates of Districts
copies to the ~~Police Inspectors~~ Probationer
Mowah.

List of enclosures.

Copied by

Examined by

WD 1744—GPB—30,000—17-3-19

Reports of Accidents in connection with Explosives.

No. G. 1931-40—Geol. 78-19-4, dated 26th July 1920.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF MYSORE.

D

GENERAL AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS.

Read—

Paragraph 5 of Government Order No. 258-267—S., dated 7th November 1902, directing that whenever an accident occurs in connection with explosives, as specified in clause 7 of the Explosives Regulation, II of 1888, the District Magistrate should cause a report thereof to be sent forthwith to the Chief Inspector of Explosives together with a copy of an enquiry into the cause of the accident held under clause 8 (1) of the said Regulation.

2. Letter No. 1072, dated the 9th April 1920, from the Chief Inspector of Mines in Mysore, forwarding a copy of letter dated 8th April 1920, received from the Inspector of Explosives, bringing to notice that there was a delay of about fifteen days in sending a report to the latter officer regarding the occurrence of an accident by the ignition of gunpowder while loading a gun in Belur village of Mudgere Taluk on 25th March 1920.

3. Correspondence ending with letter No. 129, dated 12th July 1920, from the District Magistrate, Kadur District, in the matter.

Order No. G. 1931-40—Geol. 78-19-4, dated 26th July 1920.

With a view to enable the Inspector of Explosives to have reports immediately on the occurrence of accidents in connection with explosives, Government direct that, in addition to the report caused to be sent by District Magistrates as required by the Government Order read above, the local Police Officer who receives the first information of the accident should at once give intimation thereof in future direct to (1) the District Magistrate, (2) the Police Superintendent and (3) the Inspector of Explosives.

C. S. BALASUNDARAM IYER,
Chief Secretary to Government.

To—The Chief Inspector of Mines in Mysore.
The Inspector-General of Police in Mysore.
The District Magistrates of Districts.

Exd.—C. R.

Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore.

GENERAL AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS.

G. O. No. G. 1931-40—Geol. 78-19-4, dated 26th July 1920.

Reports of Accidents in connection with Explosives.

Directs that —— should at once be sent direct by the local Police Officer receiving first information of the accident to the Inspector of Explosives, the District Magistrate and the Police Superintendent.

WD 232—GPB—570—31-8-20.

2582

Geol 78-19-5

No. 15 one Report

Dated Bangalore, 6th August 1920.

From

A. T. Setlur, Esquire, L.C.E.,

Inspector of Explosives in Mysore.

To

C. S. Balasundaram Iyer, Esquire, B.A.,

Chief Secretary to the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore.

Through L.H. Beckwith, Esq., A.R.S.M.,
Offg. Chief Inspector of Mines in Mysore.

Sir,

In continuation of my letter No.142, dated 8th April 1920, forwarding a copy of the first information report of the District Magistrate of Kadur on the occurrence of an accident by the use of gunpowder at Balur village of the Mudgere Taluk on the 24th of March 1920 together with a copy of my letter to the District Magistrate in response, I have the honour to submit for the information and orders of Government a detailed report on the accident with my remarks and suggestions in the matter.

2. Government in their order No.G, 1931-40 Geol.78-19-4 dated 26th July 1920, have already been pleased to direct that the local Police Officer who receives first information of the occurrence of Explosives Accidents should at once give intimation thereof to the District Magistrate, the Superintendent of Police and the Inspector of Explosives;

this

this will enable the Inspector of Explosives in future to deal with explosives accidents more expeditiously.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant

A. W. Fellows

Inspector of Explosives

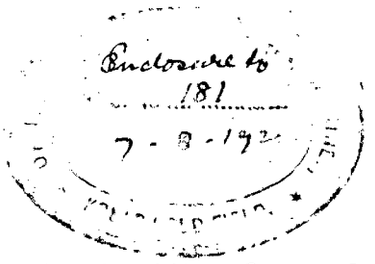
in Mysore.

C.R. No. 177 of 16th August 1920

Submitted

L. H. Deeks

Ag Chief Inspector of Mines
in Mysore.
10th August 1920



9

'Balur gunpowder accident of 24th of March '20.

The District Magistrate of Kadur reported on the 6th of April 1920, the occurrence of a most regrettable accident by the explosion of gun-powder at Balur village in the Mudigere Taluk on the 24th of March 1920, resulting in the death of eleven persons and serious injury to seven others.

In the malnad tracts of the Province, among Vakkaliga Gowdas and ~~oth~~ certain other people, a custom is prevailing of free firing of blank shots on the occasion of funerals, both as a mark of respect to the dead person and as a means of announcement to the dependents, relatives, friends and admirers of the deceased in order to enable them to assemble to pay their tribute and take part in the funeral ceremonies before cremation or burial. This demonstration of firing of blank shots is generally entrusted to a class of people known as "Billavars" and "Kumbars" (potters) and very often the employees of the deceased volunteer to take active part. As very many among them do not possess licenses to the use of fire-arms, they generally substitute them by short iron tubes or barrels with about an inch calibre ranging from 12 to 18 inches in length. These are closed at one end and are provided with small orifices to facilitate ignition and are locally known as "Buddukovis" or "Guddukovis."

These buddukovis or short tubes are generally filled with locally prepared crude gunpowder and loaded with the help of a wooden ramrod and a mallet, fixed firmly in the ground and ignited through the orifice by means of a live fuse prepared from the bark of a tree locally known as

"Gowla

"gowla tree" lashed to the end of a long slender bamboo.

The Billavars and Kumbars often bring with them small quantities of gun powder, each according to his means, for use on such occasions and to supplement these and to provide also some for the use by the employees of the deceased a good quantity of gun-powder is generally supplied by the heirs and close relatives of the deceased.

An influential and benevolent Coffee Planter by name Doddamane Manje Gowda died at Balur on the 23rd of March 1920 at night and it was arranged to take his body in procession at 12 noon on the following day to be placed in the pendal put up for the purpose underneath a shady tree a furlong outside the village, before being conveyed to the cremation ground to afford opportunity to the assembled people to pay their respects to the deceased and have the last glimpse of him.

More than five to six hundred people from the surrounding villages had assembled to participate in the funeral ceremonies and it being a hot summer day, very many had congregated for shelter underneath the only other shady tree in the vicinity waiting to follow the cortege to the cremation ground and were in the meanwhile witnessing the firing of buddukovis at a distance of 50 to 60 feet from them. Underneath this very tree was kept a quantity of gunpowder stated to measure about 8 to 10 seers or half a maund brought from the deceased's house, in a small gunnybag - the kind used for gathering coffee berries in picking season. The gunpowder contained in the bag was as required being poured into a winnower kept close by to facilitate filling of buddukovis by a large number of operators simultaneously.

About a dozen men engaged themselves to handle the buddukovis which were being filled with gunpowder from the winnower, loaded then and there with the help of the wooden

ramrod

ramrod and mallet provided, taken beyond a distance of 50 to 60 feet in the direction of the prevailing wind, fixed firmly in the ground and fired. These demonstrations were started at 12 noon and kept repeating up till 3 p.m., when all on a sudden, whilst one of the buddukovis was being reloaded, the powder in it somehow got ignited and blew off with a hissing noise and set ablaze the stock of gunpowder in the gunny bag and the winnower close by.

This unforeseen sudden conflagration of the stock of powder set on fire the wearing apparel of the people immediately surrounding and inflicted severe burns to their bodies. The injuries were aggravated owing to the peculiar nature of the national costume of the malnad people worn on such occasions, making it extremely difficult to extricate and save themselves. The conditions of many of these unfortunate panic stricken victims grew worse when in their agony they indiscreetly ran to and plunged themselves in the neighbouring stream and rolled about in the stagnant water in the surrounding paddy fields. Also, most of the injured, except a few, bluntly declined to be treated by the medical authorities whose services were specially requisitioned and they decided to submit themselves to the primitive remedies best known to them and in consequence within six weeks of the accident, by the 5th of May following, eleven persons succumbed one after another to the injuries sustained. The remaining seven who put themselves under the treatment of the medical authorities have managed to pull through and completely recovered.

I have very carefully gone through the voluminous vernacular records of the Police investigation, inquests, statements, dying declarations, Magisterial enquiries, etc., furnished by the District Magistrate, and considering fully the circumstances of the case, the evidences obtainable and

the

the opinions advanced, I am inclined to conclude that the accident, though it can be termed a preventable one, might have been caused by an unnoticed small grit or pebble in the crude gun powder when it was being loaded into a buddukovi or iron tube. The ignition might have been caused either by the high heat evolved on the sudden rise of temperature resulting from the friction caused by the grit or pebble when subjected to violent tamping or by some glowing minute particles of iron (in contact with free oxygen from the air) dislodged by the grit when it was in contact with the tube wall whilst the powder was being rammed down and it is not possible to say which in particular contributed to the accident.

As a result of detailed enquiry suggested to be made regarding the circumstances under which the late Gowda happened to possess such large quantity of gun powder in stock, it has been brought to light that the Gowda merely had a license to possess a gun and a revolver under the Arms Rules for self protection and sport and that he was not specially authorised to keep any quantity of gun powder. Further it has also been ascertained that the late Gowda was distributing gun powder freely on funeral occasions of the kind to the poor and that he was very often frequenting Mangalore and Chickmagalur and that as he was ailing for a long time he must have anticipated his end and to be prepared for the contingency either brought the gun powder himself or got it through his agents from those places or somewhere.

There does not seem to exist in the Arms Rules any provision for unpermitted possession of gun powder, but in accordance with Proviso (2) (i) of Rule 23 of the Explosives Rules, one can possess for his private use and not for sale gun powder in any quantity not exceeding 30 pounds. Hence the possession of some appreciable quantity of gun powder by

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the late Manje Gowda is I think justifiable.

In this connection I wish to observe that indiscriminate handling of gun powder by inexperienced people without observing the most important precautions in its safe keeping and use is both objectionable and undesirable. Also such unauthorised or unrestricted use creates a tendency to clandestine manufacture of crude gun powder whose composition is so well known to almost every body and whose ingredients are easily obtainable everywhere. Also, the unlicensed use of buddukovis, is, I think, illegal and inadmissible in as much as they serve the purpose of fire-arms which are included in the definition of arms in the Arms Regulation VI of 1890.

I do not feel inclined to recommend the stoppage altogether of this time honoured custom - firing of buddukovis on funeral occasions - for I am fully convinced that any such drastic measure will interfere with the 'mamul' of the malnad people and will be strongly resented.

I would, therefore, suggest for and urge on the consideration of Government, as purely a remedial measure, the necessity of possessing licenses under the Arms Rules by those that keep or handle buddukovis, and obtaining permits from a Magistrate for use of gun powder on funeral and other occasions. The Magistrate, before the issue of the permit, has to satisfy himself that only experienced people are employed to handle the buddukovis and that the person obtaining the permit is held fully responsible to take every precaution to secure the gun-powder and use it with a view to avoid all chances of accidents. Also to see to the due fulfilment of the imposed conditions and in the interests of the safety of the people taking part, the Police have to be authorised to exercise some control.

31st July 1920.

A. Leslie

Inspector of Explosives in Mysore.

G.R. S. VI—G/32]

A217

SUBJECT:—

Diary No. of letter replied to

Section Geol

File No. 78-19

Serial No. 6

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT,

( )

, the 191 .

No. G 6291

Date of issue 15/9

Signed by

To The Chief Inspector of Mines in Mysore.

Sir

With reference to your memo no 177 dated 16th August 1920 submitting the report of the Inspector of Explosives on the accident which occurred in Balur village in the Mudgere Taluk on 25th March 1920 by the use of gunpowder in Buddukovis I am directed to state that the occurrence of accidents of this kind are rare and Govt do not consider that the licensing the use of Buddie Kovis will in any way prevent or reduce such accidents. They are not therefore in favour of adopting the suggestion made about bringing these under the Arms Act.

I have etc

Dee 8/9/20.

for Chief Secy to Govt

Ag 7.9.20